

**Pesticide-Related Systemic Illnesses**  
**Summarized By Types of Symptoms and Relationship<sup>1</sup>**  
**1999**

Type of Illness <sup>2</sup>	Relationship <sup>3</sup>			Total
	Definite	Probable	Possible	
Systemic with Respiratory Effects				
Including Topical (eye and skin)	8	114	19	141
Without Topical	20	123	39	182
Systemic without Respiratory Effects				
Including Topical	8	61	26	95
Without Topical	15	84	141	240
Respiratory Effects without Other Systemic				
Respiratory and Topical	3	73	13	89
Respiratory Only	8	74	22	104

1. **Source:** California Department of Pesticide Regulation, Pesticide Illness Surveillance Program.

2. **Type of Illness:** Categorization of the type of symptoms experienced.

Systemic : Any health effects not limited to the skin and/or eye. Cases involving multiple illness symptom types, including systemic symptoms, are included in the systemic category.

Respiratory : Health effects involving any part of the respiratory tree.

Topical : Health effects involving only the eyes and/or skin. This excludes outward physical signs (miosis and lacrimation) related to effects on internal bodily systems. These signs are classified under 'Systemic'.

3. **Relationship:** Degree of correlation between pesticide exposure and resulting symptomatology.

Definite : High degree of correlation between pattern of exposure and resulting symptomatology. Requires both medical evidence (such as measured cholinesterase inhibition, positive allergy tests, characteristic signs observed by medical professional) and physical evidence of exposure (environmental and/or biological samples, exposure history) to support the conclusions.

Probable : Relatively high degree of correlation exists between the pattern of exposure and the resulting symptomatology. Either medical or physical evidence is inconclusive or unavailable.

Possible : Some degree of correlation evident. Medical and physical evidence are inconclusive or unavailable.

**Whom to Contact:**

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**About the Pesticide Illness Surveillance Program Data**

Pesticide-related illnesses have been tracked within the state of California for nearly 50 years. The California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) maintains a surveillance program which records human health effects of pesticide exposure. The Pesticide Illness Surveillance Program (PISP) documents information on adverse effects from pesticide products, whether elicited by the active ingredients, inert ingredients, impurities, or breakdown products. This program maintains a database, which is utilized for evaluating the circumstances of pesticide exposures resulting in illness. This database is consulted regularly by staff who evaluate(s) the effectiveness of the DPR pesticide safety programs and recommend changes when appropriate.